United Nations S/2003/562

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 16 May 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

After nearly two years of distinguished service under extremely difficult circumstances, Amos Namanga Ngongi (Cameroon), my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, will conclude his assignment on 30 June 2003. Consequently, following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint William Lacy Swing (United States of America) as his successor. The appointment of Mr. Swing, who has previously served with dedication as my Special Representative for Western Sahara, will take effect by 1 July 2003.

I should like to use this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the outstanding work of Mr. Ngongi. During his tenure with MONUC, the mission successfully concluded phase II of its operations and expanded from a military observer mission into a large multidisciplinary peacekeeping force that is now deployed throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mr. Ngongi's tireless efforts, for which I am particularly grateful, have contributed considerably to the recent progress in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is now entering a new phase, following the endorsement of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the participants of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-36985 (E) 220503